



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

St. Bernard Mission School photographs

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2018

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	St. Bernard Mission School photographs
Date:	circa 1925-1935
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.125
Creator:	St. Bernard Indian Residential School (Grouard, Alta.)
Extent:	.01 Linear feet 5 Photographic prints
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains 5 gelatin silver prints depicting students and teachers at the St. Bernard Mission School (also known as the St. Bernard Indian Residential School) in Grouard, Alberta, Canada, circa 1925-1935.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Patricia Krehbiel in 2017 and 2018.

Processing Information

Processed by Emily Moazami, Assistant Head Archivist, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); St. Bernard Mission School photographs; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical / Historical

Founded in 1872, the St. Bernard Mission was located at Lesser Slave Lake in Alberta, Canada near the Hudson's Bay Company trading post. The Catholic mission run by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate worked with the Plains Cree and Cree Metis Indigenous communities in the region. By 1900, the mission ran the St. Bernard Mission School (also known as the St. Bernard Residential School), a residence for nuns, and a farming operation at Grouard, Alberta, Canada. The school closed its doors in 1962.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 5 gelatin silver prints depicting students and teachers at the St. Bernard Mission School (also known as the St. Bernard Indian Residential School) in Grouard, Alberta, Canada. The photographs, shot by an unidentified photographer, depict student classes, activities, and teachers circa 1925-1935. One photograph also depicts a nurse and child at St. Theresa Hospital in Ft. Vermilion in Alberta, Canada. The students are most likely from the Plains Cree First Nations Indigenous community in Canada.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Cree
- Cree Metis
- Indians of North America -- Canada
- Indians of North America -- Education
- Off-reservation boarding schools -- Photographs
- Plains Cree (Prairie Cree)

Cultures:

- Cree
- Cree Metis
- Plains Cree (Prairie Cree)

Places:

- Grouard (Alta.)

Container Listing

Photo-folder 1	<p>Students sewing, circa 1925-1935 1 Photographic print Notes: Photograph depicting girls sitting behind sewing machines in a classroom. A stack of clothes sits on a table before them. Photographed at the St. Bernard Mission School in Alberta, Canada. A handwritten note on the back of the photograph reads, "Our sewing room." Culture: Plains Cree (Prairie Cree)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Students ironing, circa 1925-1935 1 Photographic print Notes: Photograph depicting girls ironing clothes at the St. Bernard Mission School in Alberta, Canada. A handwritten note on the back of the photograph reads, "On Monday when the girls iron." Culture: Plains Cree (Prairie Cree)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Students eating in dining hall, circa 1925-1935 1 Photographic print Notes: Photograph depicting girls eating in the dining hall. They sit at two long tables. A caption on the back of the photograph reads, "Girls' dining room." Culture: Plains Cree (Prairie Cree)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Nuns and an unidentified man, circa 1925-1935 1 Photographic print Notes: Photograph depicting two nuns and an unidentified man standing outside a building. They are possibly teachers and administrators affiliated with the St. Bernard Mission in Alberta, Canada. Culture: Plains Cree (Prairie Cree)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Nurse Marsella and young patient Charlie, circa 1925-1935 1 Photographic print Notes: Photograph depicting a nurse holding a toddler outside the St. Teresa Hospital in Ft. Vermilion, Alberta, Canada. A handwritten note on the back of the photograph reads, "This is the picture of one of my little boys- He is with us since a year. He is very sick with C.B. His mother is in the saw [?] in Edmonton nearly every month he has pneumonia. At present he has sores on face and neck. I am very attach to him notice the size of his leg. He is 2 years old and weigh 30 pounds his name is Charlie- he understand french, english an slaue [?] his [illegible] - He is my pet [?] He pray for you also. By-bye. Si Marsella. St. Theresa Hospital. Ft. Vermilion, Alta, Canada." Culture: Plains Cree (Prairie Cree)</p>